



## CARING FOR PET BIRDS

Birds should be transported in a secure travel cage or carrier. In cold weather, wrap a blanket over the carrier and warm up the car before placing birds inside. During warm weather, make sure you carry a spray bottle filled with water to mist the bird's feathers periodically. Do not put water inside the carrier during transport. Provide a few slices of fresh fruits and vegetables with high water content. Have a photograph of your bird for identification purposes as well as leg bands. If the carrier does not have a perch, line it with paper towels and change them frequently. Try to keep the carrier in a quiet area. Do not let the birds out of the cage or carrier.

## OTHER PETS

### REPTILES



Snakes can be transported in a pillowcase, but they must be transferred to more secure housing when they reach the evacuation site. If your snakes require frequent feedings, carry food with you. Take a water bowl large enough for soaking as well as a heating pad. When transporting house lizards, follow the same directions as for birds.

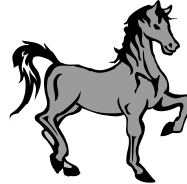
### HAMSTERS, RABBITS, ETC.

Small mammals should be transported in secure carriers suitable for maintaining the animals while sheltered. Make sure you take food, water, bedding materials, bowls, and toys.



## HORSES

Make sure that you pack food, water, and hay for your horse. You should also have a recent photograph of your horse and a copy of the bill of sale in your emergency kit. Make arrangements now to trailer or move your horse in case of a disaster.



## PLEASE REMEMBER...

If you must evacuate your home **DO NOT** leave your animals behind. Take them to a prearranged safe location if they cannot stay with you during the evacuation period. If there is a possibility that disaster may strike while you are away from home, there are precautions you can take to increase your pets' chances of survival, but they are not a substitute for evacuating with your pets.



**San Bernardino County  
Animal Care & Control Program  
606 E. Mill Street, 2nd Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0003  
1-800-472-5609**

# Disaster Preparedness for Your Pets



*To learn  
more about  
how you  
can be  
prepared to  
protect  
your pets  
when and  
if disaster  
strikes,  
please look  
inside...*

## Planning is the Key for Survival!



In California, we are used to planning for disasters such as earthquakes, fires and floods although we hope it will not happen to us. If you are a pet owner, you need to make sure that you have included your pets in your emergency preparations. Of course, different disasters will require different responses, but, in any case, you may have to evacuate your home.

If you must evacuate, the most important thing you can do to protect your pets is to take them with you.

Leaving pets behind, even if you try to create a safe place for them, is likely to result in them being injured, lost or worse — killed. So prepare now for the day when you and your pets may have to leave your home.

## Where Will You Take Your Pets?

Red Cross disaster shelters are not allowed to accept pets because of health and safety regulations and other considerations. Service animals who assist people with disabilities are the only animals allowed in Red Cross shelters. It may be difficult, if not impossible, to find shelter for your animals in the middle of a disaster, so plan ahead. Do not wait until disaster strikes to do your research.

- Contact hotels and motels outside of your immediate area to find out about their policies on accepting pets and restrictions on number, size, and species. Ask if “no pet” policies could be waived during an emergency. Keep a list of “pet friendly” places, including phone numbers, with other disaster information and supplies.

- Ask friends, relatives, or others outside the affected area whether they could shelter your animals.
- If you have more than one pet, they may be more comfortable if kept together, but be prepared to house them separately.
- Prepare a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians who could shelter animals in an emergency; include 24-hour phone numbers.
- You should not rely on animal shelters to provide emergency shelter for your pets during a disaster because the majority of shelters are already overburdened caring for the animals they already have as well as those that are displaced by disasters. The animal shelters should be your **LAST RESORT**.

## A Pet Disaster Supply Kit

Whether you are away from home for a day or a week, you will need essential supplies. Keep items in an accessible place and store them in sturdy containers that can be easily carried. Your pet disaster supply kit should include:



- Medications and medical records (stored in a waterproof container) and a first aid kit.
- Sturdy leashes, harnesses, and/or carriers to transport pets safely and ensure that you animals cannot escape.
- Current photos of your pets in case they get lost. Make sure you know the numbers of local animal shelters in case you do lose your pet. There is a good chance it may be turned in.
- Food, portable water, bowls, cat litter/pan, can opener, pet beds, and toys.
- Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to foster or board your pets.

## What to Do

Often, warning signs are issued hours, even days, in advance. Act to protect your pet at the first sign of a disaster.

- Call ahead to confirm emergency shelter arrangements for you and your pets.
- Check to be sure your pet disaster supplies are ready to take at a moment's notice.
- Bring all pets into the house so that you won't have to search for them if you have to leave in a hurry.
- Make sure all dogs and cats are wearing collars and securely fastened, up-to-date identification. Attach the phone number and address of your temporary shelter, if you know it, or of a friend or relative outside the disaster area. You can buy temporary tags or put adhesive tape on the back of your pet's ID tag.



You never know when disaster will strike. You may not be home when the evacuation order comes. Consider putting a pet alert sticker on an outside window to alert emergency workers to the presence of pets in your home. Find out if a trusted neighbor would be willing to take your pets and meet you at a prearranged location. This person should be comfortable with your pets, know where your animals are likely to be, know where your pet disaster supply kit is kept, and have a key to your house. If you use a petsitting service, they may be able to help, but you will need to discuss this possibility well in advance.

Planning and preparation will enable you to evacuate with your pets quickly and safely. Keep in mind that animals react differently under stress. Outside your home and in the car, keep dogs securely leashed. Transport cats in carriers. Do not leave animals unattended anywhere they can run off. The most trustworthy pets may panic, hide, try to escape, or even bite or scratch. When you return home, give your pets time to settle back into their routines. Consult your veterinarian if any behavior problems persist.

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